

12 June 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment  
FROM: Director of Central Intelligence  
SUBJECT: The National Intelligence Topics  
REFERENCE: Your memo, dtd 2 June 1980, Same Subject (ER 80-866/8)

25X1 1. I've worked my way through the proposed NITs. Let me suggest that the list of the Topics of current interest was generally good. I suspect it is more extensive than we can handle in a six-month period. Some people like DoE just gave us a shopping list of all the people who might possibly build nuclear weapons. I narrowed that down to three. We then could pick up another three in the next six months, etc. [redacted]

2. Overall, I narrowed it down to 24 Topics. This does not mean the others are not worthwhile; it was my sense of priority (I did this very hastily so don't hesitate to change some or make it 26 or 22). I think, though, we should get on with this act by putting out this list of current Topics. We should explain that we've appreciated their inputs and that we've tried to establish a sense of priority within the list of inputs so that we could bring the entire effort within range of our capabilities to produce some form of paper on each topic of current interest within the next six-month period. The Topics that could not be handled will be reconsidered for the next six-month period and/or factored into the Topics of continuing interest. [redacted]

3. Good work--let's keep going. [redacted]

*for* STANSFIELD TURNER